approval of the competent authority and without any other officer of NCCF having witnessed the Agreement providing for furnishing of Bank Guarantee of Rs. 5 lakhs as per clause 8 for due performance of duties of the Transporters;

(b) whether the same Chief Manager (Business) subsequently arbitrarily waived the condition of furnishing bank guarantee by the Transporter obviously giving benefit to the Transporter thereby loosening the grip of NCCF on the Transporter;

(c) what is the progress of Investigations by CID Police of Delhi into replacement of Dry-Dates;

(d) whether this matter also has been referred to CBI when the whole matter of Import and Disposal of Dry-Date is already being investigated by them and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what departmental disciplinary action has been taken against the Chief Manager.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The agreement signed by NCCF on 16th February, 1988 did not specify any amount for bank guarantee and the same was signed by the Chief Manager (Business) after obtaining general approval of the competent authority. However, no signatures of any witness was appended to that agreement.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The investigations are still in progress.

(d) Since the matter under investigation of the CID, Delhi Police is a separate one, it can not be referred to CBI alongwith the import case, until Delhi Police complete their investigations.

(e) In view of the replies to parts (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Action against Regional Manager (North) NCCF, Bombay

2170. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1223 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the News item which published in the *Maharashtra Times* of 21st December, 1988 under the caption "71 HARJARANIHA APHAR, TINGHNAVAR NOTISA"

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken against the said officer;

(c) whether this Officer is also involved in the purchase of 1500 MT Toor Dhal from Nagpur and other parts of Maharashtra at the higher rates for supplying to Gujarat State; and

(d) if so, what disciplinary action is being taken against the said officer who is now posted against the key post of Regional Manager (North) with Hqrs., at Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The NCCF has reported that the Court of Judicial Magistrate, Kolhapur has not issued any summon to Shri K. G. Kulkarni, Regional Manager (West) of the NCCF so far, for the alleged irregularities committed by Shri K. G. Kulkarni while working as General Manager of the Kolhapur Janata Central Cons. Store Ltd., Kolhapur.

(c) and (d) NCCF was reported that the Ahmedabad branch of the NCCF had received an order from the Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation for supply of 1500 MTs of Toor Dal. The Ahmedabad branch of the NCCF in turn placed this order with the Nagpur Dal Mill of the NCCF. The Nagpur Dal Mill of the NCCF had supplied some stocks of the Toor Dal against this order from out of the stocks available with them and the remaining quantity was purchased by the Nagpur branch of NCCF

from the Market at Nagpur and Akola after completion of all formalities. In this transaction NCCF is reported to have earned a considerable amount as net profit. In view of the above, the question of taking disciplinary action against Shri K. G. Kulkarni, Regional Manager does not arise.

Long term plan for rainfed dry-land areas

2171. SHRI PRITHIBI SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any long term plan has been formulated to tackle the problems of agriculture in the rainfed dryland areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Government have been pursuing appropriate research and development strategies to tackle the problems of agriculture in rainfed/dryland areas so as to promote integrated development on Watershed basis. While research support is being provided on a continuing basis, the development strategy focusses attention on land imprvement and rain-water management with emphasis on adoption of affordable and replicable technologies and *in situ* moisture conservation techniques as well as introduction of improved crop production systems and alternate land use systems like afforestation dryland horticulture and pasture development based on proper analysis of land capability and rainfall pattern. This approach is operationalised through various Central and State sector programmes.

Labour Courts/Tribunals in the country

2172. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether various Labour Courts/ labour tribunals in the country are not functioning according to the expectations of the workers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 envisages setting up of Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts in the Central Sphere as well as in the State Sphere. In so far as the Central Government is concerned, 11 Central Government Industrial Tribunals (CGIT)-cum-Labour Courts have been set up in various parts of the country to deal with the industrial disputes and applications in the Central Sphere. In States where there are no Central Government Industrial Tribunals (CGITs) these disputes are referred to State Industrial Tribunals. In so far as the disputes and applications in the State sphere are concerned, Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts have been set up by various State Governments and Union Territories to settle them. The disposal of the disputes and applications by the Labour Courts and Tribunals is sometimes delayed on account of :

(i) Stay order granted by various High Courts.

(ii) Delay in filling of the vacancies of the Presiding Officers due to non-availability of Judicial Officers.

(iii) Lack of education amongst workers in understanding the procedure resulting in delay in fielding proper statements and documents before these Courts/Tribunals.

(iv) Adjournment sought by parties to dispute.

(v) Backlog of cases.

The Ministry of Labour has prescribed certain norms for disposal of applications and industrial disputes by the Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-